FPK-21006/RSW

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

ZINA V. LAIN,)	
Plaintiff)	
v.) No. 2021 L 00144	8
SCHINDLER ENTERPRISES,)	
SCHINDLER ELEVATOR CORPORATION,)	
HARRAH'S JOLIET CASINO HOTEL a/k/a)	
HARRAH'S ILLINOIS LLC,)	
HARRAH'S JOLIET LANDCO, LLC, and)	
CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT, INC.)	
)	
Defendants.)	

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Sections 1332(a)(1), 1441(b) and 1446, defendants Harrah's Joliet Casino Hotel a/k/a Harrah's Illinois LLC (Harrah's) and Caesars Entertainment Operating Company, Inc. (CEOC) and defendant Schindler Elevator Corporation (Schindler), hereby remove to this Court the state-court action entitled *Zina V. Lain v. Schindler Enterprises et al.*, Civil Action No. 2021 L 001448, filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County, in the State of Illinois.

In support of removal, Harrah's, CEOC, and Schindler, state as follows:

GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL

1. This action is removable under 28 U.S.C. Section 1441(b) because there is complete diversity of citizenship and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs.

a. Complete Diversity of Citizenship

- 2. Plaintiff Zina V. Lain is citizen and resident of the State of Illinois. Ex. A, Cplt. filed 2/08/2021, Count I, ¶ 1.
- 3. Caesars Holdings, Inc. f/k/a Caesars Entertainment Corporation is a corporation with a single shareholder, Caesars Entertainment, Inc. (BlackRock, Inc. owns more than 10% of the stock issued by Caesars Entertainment, Inc.)
- 4. Caesars Holdings, Inc. is corporation organized in Delaware with a principal place of business in Nevada.
- 5. Caesars Entertainment, Inc. is a corporation organized in Delaware with a principal place of business in Nevada.
- 6. CEOC, LLC f/k/a Caesars Entertainment Operating Company, Inc. is a limited liability company with a single member, Caesars Resort Collection, LLC.
- 7. Caesars Resort Collection, LLC is a limited liability company with a single member, Caesars Growth Partners, LLC.
- 8. Caesars Growth Partners, LLC is a limited liability company with a single member, Caesars Holdings, Inc. f/k/a Caesars Entertainment Corporation (see #6-8 above).
- 9. Des Plaines Development L.P. is a limited partnership with two partners, Des Plaines Development Holdings, LLC and Harrah's Illinois LLC.
- 10. Des Plaines Development Holdings, LLC is a limited liability company with a single member, Jonathan Eilian, who is a citizen of the State of New York.
- 11. Harrah's Illinois LLC f/k/a Harrah's Illinois Corporation is a limited liability company with a single member, CEOC, LLC f/k/a Caesars Entertainment Operating Company, Inc. (see 6-8 above).

- 12. Harrah's Joliet Landco LLC has not been served; however should that occur, its citizenship is as follows: Harrah's Joliet LandCo LLC is a limited liability company with two members, Des Plaines Development Holdings, LLC (see #10 above) and VICI Properties 1 LLC.
- 13. VICI Properties 1 LLC is a limited liability company with a single member, VICI Properties L.P.
- 14. VICI Properties L.P. is a limited partnership with two partners, VICI Properties Inc. and VICI Properties GP LLC.
- 15. VICI Properties GP LLC is a limited liability company with a single member VICI Properties Inc.
- 16. VICI Properties Inc. is organized in Maryland with a principal place of business in New York.
- 17. The Vanguard Group, Inc. (through twenty-five funds) and Cohen & Steers Capital Management, Inc. (though 28 funds) each own more than 10% of the stock issued by VICI Properties Inc.
- 18. Schindler Elevator Corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of Schindler Enterprises, Inc.
- 19. Schindler Elevator Corporation is a Delaware Corporation with its principal place of business in New Jersey.
- 20. Schindler Enterprises, Inc. is a Delaware Corporation with its principal place of business in New Jersey.
 - 21. Accordingly, there is complete diversity among the parties.

b. Amount in Controversy

22. The amount-in-controversy requirement for diversity jurisdiction is satisfied.

23. Plaintiff's itemized damages produced in discovery exceed \$77,000.

c. Other Prerequisites for Removal have Been Satisfied

- 24. No defendant is a citizen of the State of Illinois. *See* 28 U.S.C. 1441(b) and *Hertz* v. *Friend*, 59 U.S. 77 (2010)(adopting 7th Circuit "nerve center" test).
 - 25. Harrah's and CEOC filed their appearance on 3/24/2021.
 - 26. Schindler filed its appearance on 3/25/2021.
- 27. Plaintiff served her answers to written discovery on 10/06/2021 which included itemized medical bills which allegedly support her injuries.
- 28. Plaintiff's medical bills total over \$77,000; service of her medical bills was the first instance where defendants learned the case value.
- 29. This Removal Petition was filed within 30 days (11/05/2021) of defendants' notice of case value in excess of \$75,000.
- 30. Consequently, this Notice of Removal is timely filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1446(B)(3).
- 31. The Circuit Court of Cook County is located within the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern, Division. 28 U.S.C. Section 93(a)(1).
- 32. Copies of all process, pleadings, and orders served upon removing entities are attached as Exhibit A.

WHEREFORE, defendants Harrah's Joliet Casino Hotel a/k/a Harrah's Illinois LLC and of Caesars Entertainment Operating Company, Inc. and defendant Schindler Elevator Corporation, hereby remove to this Court the state-court action entitled *Zina V. Lain v. Schindler Enterprises* et al., Civil Action No. 2021 L 001448.

Respectfully submitted:

/s/Frank Kasbohm	/s/Thomas Tomasik Robert Larsen
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